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the revised proposals sent to the Government of India, this scheme has been excluded from the Plan in view of the need for restricting expenditure to the limit of the resources available.

Tapioca industry

* 347-A *Q*.—Sri K. T. RAJU (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture has submitted any proposals during 1956 for the development of tapioca industry in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Exemption from sales tax

* 347-B *Q*.—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any communication from the Centre during 1956 suggesting that essential articles of food, etc., in the State may be exempted from sales tax;

(*b*) if so, the action taken by this Government thereon;

(*c*) whether the Retail Merchants' Association, Madras, has made a representation to the Government during September 1956 requesting that a committee may be appointed to enquire into the grievances of the dealers in regard to the collection of sales tax by the Government; and

(*d*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No action was considered necessary as the Government of India have under consideration a proposal to appoint a committee to study the working of Sales Tax Acts in the States.

Turnover of dealers for registration

* 347-C *Q*.—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Retail Merchants' Association, Madras, has made a representation to the Government during September 1956 that the turnover for registration may be increased from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 10,000 and that the taxable turnover may be increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Madras Retail Merchants' Association, Madras, has submitted a petition, dated 1st September 1956, requesting among other things that the turnover for registration of a dealer be increased from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 12,000 and that the taxable turnover be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000.

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Has any action been taken on the memorandum?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No action has been taken in view of the fact that the Taxation Enquiry Commission had stated that the turnover amount should be reduced to rupees 5,000.

Scheme for the construction of Kudupatti reservoir

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri K. Aranganathan was not present when his question (No. 341) was called. He desires to put his question now. He will put the question now.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : I put the question, Sir.

* 341 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have received any scheme from the Chief Engineer to construct Kudupatti reservoir at Sevalapuri across Sankaraparani river Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes. We received a scheme from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) in February 1949. After examination the scheme was deferred. The question of taking up the scheme is again being considered now.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : In this connexion I would like the Hon. Minister to consider all the various points. The construction of the Vidur reservoir has been included in the Second Five-Year Plan to irrigate Tindivanam taluk. The original scheme is to construct the Kudupatti reservoir in Gingee taluk to irrigate Tindivanam taluk. A Division was created for this purpose and the Division has so worked as to irrigate Tindivanam taluk from the reservoir in Gingee taluk. Gingee taluk is a backward and dry high level area. There are no rivers except Sankaraparani and Tondiyar—a rivulet. Therefore any reservoir to be constructed in Gingee should be useful only to Gingee taluk. Vidur reservoir will irrigate Tindivanam taluk. Even the original Krishna–Pennar scheme is only to irrigate Tindivanam taluk and not Gingee taluk. As such I request the Hon. Minister to consider all these and make the necessary arrangements for the construction of a reservoir in Gingee taluk to irrigate Gingee taluk alone. Otherwise, it would be a great injustice done to Gingee taluk.

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Off-hand I cannot answer the question. This question no doubt is slightly complicated by the fact of having to provide